

That which is claimed is:

1. A method of metallizing a silicone rubber substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) depositing a primer layer of aluminum on a surface of a silicone rubber substrate, and
(ii) depositing a layer of a ductile metal on the primer layer of aluminum, wherein the ductile metal is selected from gold, platinum, palladium, copper, silver, aluminum, and indium.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the silicone rubber substrate is prepared by curing a curable silicone composition selected from a hydrosilylation-curable silicone composition, a peroxide curable silicone composition, a condensation-curable silicone composition, an epoxy-curable silicone composition; an ultraviolet radiation-curable silicone composition, and a high-energy radiation-curable silicone composition.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the curable silicone composition further comprises an inorganic filler.

4. The method according to claims 1, 2, or 3, wherein the primer layer of aluminum has a thickness of from 1 to 200 nm.

5. The method according to claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, wherein the layer of a ductile metal has a thickness of from 20 to 500 nm.

6. The method according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, wherein the ductile metal is gold or platinum.